



Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Community Living ARRA Projects

Facts at a Glance



Welcome to the Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

Charles Carr, Commissioner

“The goal of our services is to promote dignity through employment and community living, one person at a time. We hope all citizens with disabilities in Massachusetts will have the opportunity to contribute as a productive member of their community and family as a result of services provided by the MRC.”

	Project Initiative	Location	Population Served	Total Project Value	Project Timeline	Key Outcomes
1	All People Accessible Business Program at ILCNSCA	North Shore and Cape Ann	Consumers in ILCNSCA Service Area	\$137,304	2010-2013	Community Education Coordinator hired, 5 accessibility surveys completed to date, technology upgraded.

Project Description: The ILC of North Shore and Cape Ann (ILCNSCA) has used ARRA funds to develop the All People Accessible Business (APAB) survey project, which provides guidance to local businesses to improve accessibility for people with disabilities and promotes businesses that meet ADA and State accessibility criteria. ILCNSCA created a website and a data entry portal for survey results and is networking with area Chambers of Commerce and employers to market the project. ILCNSCA has also upgraded technology and enhanced a resource booklet for consumers through ARRA-funded staff.

	Project Initiative	Location	Population Served	Total Project Value	Project Timeline	Key Outcomes
2	Stavros Center Disabled Veterans and Home Accessibility Program	Springfield Area, Amherst Area, Pioneer Valley	Consumers in Stavros' Service Area	\$142,528	2010-2013	Veterans Specialist and 2 Project Managers hired, accessibility program created and construction bids submitted.

Project Description: Stavros is using ARRA funds to operate a disabled veterans' assistance program that provides dedicated services to veterans to assist them in maintaining independence in the community. Stavros has also created a home accessibility modification program for individuals with disabilities. This program includes a "handyman" service, which provides quick repairs and improvement for accessible features in the homes of people with disabilities.

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3	AdLib Center for Independent Living Drop-In-Center Program	Berkshire County	700	\$136,389	2010-2013	35 to 40 consumers served daily, 1 full-time coordinator and 12 consumer jobs created

Project Description: AdLib is utilizing its ARRA funding to operate the Drop-In Center, a recreational and social support program for individuals with disabilities in Pittsfield. The program is an integral and important part of the lives of over 700 individuals and is staffed by individuals with disabilities. The cross-disability program offers a wide array of educational and social activities that enable members to be more integrated and independent in the community.

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4	Boston Center for Independent Living Outreach to the Latino and Haitian Communities	Greater Boston Area	100 New Consumers to Date	\$391,773	2010-2013	5 Outreach Advocates hired, 100 new consumer cases, 6 newspaper articles published, community workshops conducted.

Project Description: The Boston Center for Independent Living (BCIL) is using ARRA funding to conduct intensive outreach to unserved and underserved populations in Greater Boston, focused on the Latino and Haitian communities. To date these efforts have allowed BCIL staff working on this project to develop active client bases of many individuals in the target groups, as well as seniors at high risk of entering a nursing facility, and youth with learning disabilities.

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5	Northeast Independent Living Program (NILP) ARRA Projects	Northeastern Massachusetts, Lowell and Lawrence Areas	Consumers in NILP Service Area	\$138,655	2010-2011	Summer youth program for high-risk youth with disabilities operated, ADA Compliance and Training Program conducted, outreach to underserved communities.

Project Description: NILP utilized its ARRA funds to retain staff, to grow community marketing and outreach efforts, to develop an ADA compliance curriculum to train community partners, and to operate a Summer Youth Program for high-risk youth with disabilities. These efforts have provided the foundation for NILP's continued focus on strategic planning, organizational services, outreach and advocacy. NILP has secured resources to sustain the agency's summer youth program started with ARRA.

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6	MetroWest ILC Technology and Outreach Projects	Metro-West Suburbs of Boston	All Consumers in MetroWest Suburbs	\$136,877	2010-2013	Information Specialist and 2 Peer Counselors hired, technology upgrades completed, equipment for training and education materials obtained.

Project Description: MetroWest is using ARRA funding to improve technological infrastructure, community outreach efforts, and improving resource development. The center has hired ARRA-funded staff to increase communication with consumers and the disability community. Metrowest is also using technological equipment and accessories to produce education and training materials for people with disabilities.

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7	Center for Living And Working Accessibility Improvements	Central Massachusetts	All Consumers in CLW Service Area	\$139,536	2010-2013	16 accessible workstations installed, phone system upgraded, 3 staff retained, PCA database add-on obtained.

Project Description: The Center for Living and Working (CLW) has used its ARRA funding to support facilities improvements for improved accessibility for clients and staff as well as technological upgrades to software and office systems for increased efficiency. In addition, three staff positions are retained with ARRA funds. In addition, ARRA funds will also support skills training and education classes for CLW staff.

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8	Southeast Center for IL ARRA Projects	Southeastern Massachusetts, Fall River, New Bedford	All Consumers in SCIL Service Area	\$137,923	2010-2013	5 staff positions retained, partnership with Bristol Community College created, Ticket to Work application submitted.

Project Description: The Southeast Center for Independent Living (SCIL) is utilizing ARRA funding to support five staff positions focused on assisting consumers in transitioning into and maintaining independence in the community. These ARRA-funded positions are also coordinating efforts to assist SCIL consumers with obtaining academic and employment opportunities. SCIL also used ARRA funding to work to develop and submit an application for the Social Security Ticket to Work program for the Center to become an Employment Network.

	Project Initiative	Location	Population Served	Total Project Value	Project Timeline	Key Outcomes
9	Independence Associates Technological Upgrades and Outreach Project	Greater Brockton Area	All Consumers in IA Service Area	\$138,873	2010-2013	Phone system replaced, equipment for staff and community trainings purchased, staff member hired.

Project Description: Independence Associates is using its ARRA resources on technological upgrades, staffing, and accessibility improvements to improve the Center's capacity to provide quality services to individuals with disabilities within its service area. Projects include upgrading technological equipment to improve service delivery and assist with community trainings, and improvements to IA's facilities to increase accessibility and improve the ability of IA to serve individuals with disabilities.

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10	Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled Recreation and Special Education Projects	Cape Cod and the Islands	All Consumers in CORD Service Area	\$136,873	2010-2013	8 staff members retained, special education workshops conducted, conference on accessible recreation planned, accessible trolley tour proposal presented.

Project Description: The Cape Organization for the Rights of the Disabled is utilizing its ARRA funding on projects revolving around special education training and increasing access to recreational activities for individuals with disabilities in the Cape Cod Region. In addition, CORD will be using ARRA funds on programs and services to assist youth with disabilities with transitioning from school to work, adulthood, and independent living.

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11	Multicultural ILC Outreach and Relocation Project	Boston Area	All Consumers in MILCB Service Area	\$167,552	2010-2013	2 Outreach and Peer Mentors hired, negotiations for relocation underway.

Project Description: The Multicultural Independent Living Center of Boston is utilizing ARRA funds toward outreach and skills training efforts to underserved individuals with disabilities within its service area, focusing on consumers with cultural and language barriers. MILCB also will utilize ARRA resources to assist with the agency's effort to relocate to a new location which will expand its capacity to provide core independent living services to individuals with disabilities of diverse backgrounds.

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12	New Client Tracking Database for MRC Independent Living Centers	Statewide	All 11 Mass. ILCs and Consumers	\$194,000	2010-2011	New web-based database for MA ILCs completed and training developed and provided.
Project Description: ARRA funds supported a major upgrade of the program database used for client tracking and performance monitoring by the ILCs. The database is web-based, fully accessible, and meets federal and state reporting requirements. The database is used to generate reports and record client and service information.						

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13	Performance Measures for Independent Living Centers	Statewide	All 11 Mass. ILCs	\$30,000	2009-2011	New measures created, documented, and tested. Training of ILCs completed.
Project Description: ARRA funds also supported development of new performance measures for Massachusetts' ILCs. Performance measures were created to better evaluate the quality and effectiveness of services received by individuals with disabilities, including benchmarks and outcomes.						